APHIS – Plant Protection and Quarantine

Daily Situation Report: Light Brown Apple Moth (LBAM)

March 26, 2007

Survey and Diagnostics Information:

Sites	Survey			Diagnostics	
	Number of Locations	Number of Traps	Number of Moths	Presumptive Positive	Confirmed Positive
Nurseries	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*
Private Residences	*34*	*34*	*39*	*0*	*30*
Commercial Sites	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*	*0*
Public Areas	*1*	*1*		*9*	*0*
Total to Date	*34*	*34*	*39*	*9*	*30*

- **Survey:**
  - Survey teams continue to implement a rigorous detection and delimiting survey for the light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana,* in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, California. In addition, trap deployment began in the surrounding San Francisco Bay Area Counties and southern California.

  - To date, a total of 2,648 traps have been inspected and 31 moths have been confirmed as LBAM. An additional 9 moths were found in one trap in Golden Gate Park, San Francisco and are considered presumptive positive. Specimens have been sent to SEL for confirmation.

- **Diagnostics:**
  - Trapped moths are forwarded to the California Department of Agriculture (CDFA) Plant Health and Prevention Services Plant Pest Diagnostics Laboratory for the initial identification. LBAM presumptive positive moths are forwarded to the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, D.C. for confirmation.

  - A total of 9 moths are currently designated as presumptive positive.

Operational Update:

- **Technical Working Group (TWG)**
  - APHIS has assembled a team of subject matter experts from the United States, New Zealand, and Hawaii to discuss and recommend survey methods and eradication strategies. This includes a number of environmentally friendly options - such as mating disruption with pheromone - that have been used elsewhere against LBAM infestations.

- **Incident Command:**
  - A total of 33 personnel on-site (30 CDFA and 3 APHIS) are assuming various roles within the ICS structure.

- **Regulatory Actions:**
  - A regulatory strategy is under development.

- **Treatment:**
  - CDFA and APHIS are in the process of examining treatment options with the Technical Working Group. CDFA is working on researching registration needs for biopesticides.

Trade:

- Many countries such as Chile, Korea, Peru, and South Africa list the pest as a Quarantine Pest and may require certification attesting to pest freedom for commodities such as apples, pears, grapes, citrus, cherries and stone fruits.
- Mexico and Canada may also require some type of certification.

Communication and Outreach:

- USDA and CDFA issued press releases on March 22, 2007 announcing the confirmation of LBAM in California.
- SPRO letter was released today informing States and stakeholders of the LBAM in California.
- Public Information Officers (PIO) from APHIS and CDFA are in the process of developing communication plans designed to inform stakeholders and cooperators of the survey objectives and response plans.
- A conference call with the National Plant Board is scheduled for this week.

Background:

- On February 6, 2007, a private citizen, near Berkley, Alameda County, California, reported that two suspect moths had been captured in a blacklight trap on his property.

- In response, pheromone-baited traps were placed on March 1, 2007, in Alameda and Contra Costa counties. Trap inspections began March 7, 2007.

- On March 16, 2007, the ARS Systematic Entomology Laboratory (SEL) in Washington, D.C confirmed the samples sent were positive and validated using morphological testing.

- The light brown apple moth (LBAM), *Epiphyas postvittana,* is a native pest of Australia and is now widely distributed New Zealand, United Kingdom, Ireland, and New Caledonia.

- Although, it was reported in Hawaii in late 1800s, the California find is the first in the mainland U.S.

- If left uncontrolled, LABM could cause a significant damage to many different kinds of plants, including stone fruit (peaches, plums, nectarines, cherries, and apricots), pip fruit (apples and pears), grapes and citrus.